

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12, 15, 18, 20-23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32-48, and 51-57 are pending. By this amendment independent claims 1, 12, 23, 40, and 48 are amended. Claims 29 and 32-39 have been noted as allowed.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-10, 23, 26, 28, 48, 51, and 54-57 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,754,451 to Williams in view of Rockwell Software, “*Getting Results with RSRules*” (Rockwell). Claims 12, 15, 18, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Rockwell and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,870,693 to Seng et al. Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Rockwell and Seng and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,676 to Elsley. Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Rockwell and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,949,676 to Elsley. Claims 40-47 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Rockwell and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,586,156 to Gaubatz. Claims 52 and 53 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams in view of Rockwell and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,319,353 to Ohnishi et al.

Independent claims 1, 12, 23, 40 and 48 have been amended to further clarify the invention. Specifically, each of the noted independent claims has been amended to emphasize that not only does the invention provide for acquiring transition data about a subset of digital channels, it also enables one or more of the digital channels of the subset to be ignored such that

data is still acquired for the ignored channel of the subset of digital channels but the ignored channel is not used to determine the operational status of the machine, i.e., the ignored channel data is not used in the analysis of the operational of the status of the machine but the data on the ignored channel is still present if needed for other purposes.

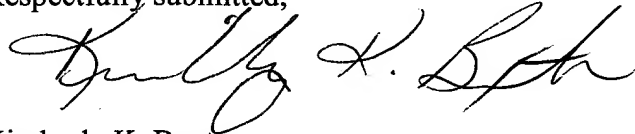
Applicant submits that Williams in combination with RSRules does not provide this feature. RSRules allows the user to select or not select I/O for a grouping, see page 19 of RSRules "Understanding I/O Groupings", however, it does not allow the user to select I/O for the grouping and designate one or more of the selected I/O of the grouping to be ignored (i.e., gather data on the ignored I/O but don't use the data in analysis). Rather **all** I/O that are placed in the I/O grouping are **used** to created rules for an action event, i.e., they are used in the analysis of machine operation. RSRules does not provide for I/O that is not used in a rule, if I/O is selected it is used in its group and can additionally be used in a global group or all groups, see page 20, lines 16-27; the I/O can not be selected for a group and **then** ignored as the claimed invention allows for.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kimberly K. Baxter', written in a cursive style.

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